

#USAAW22

#AntimicrobialResistance

www.cdc.gov/DrugResistance

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week



November 18-24, 2022

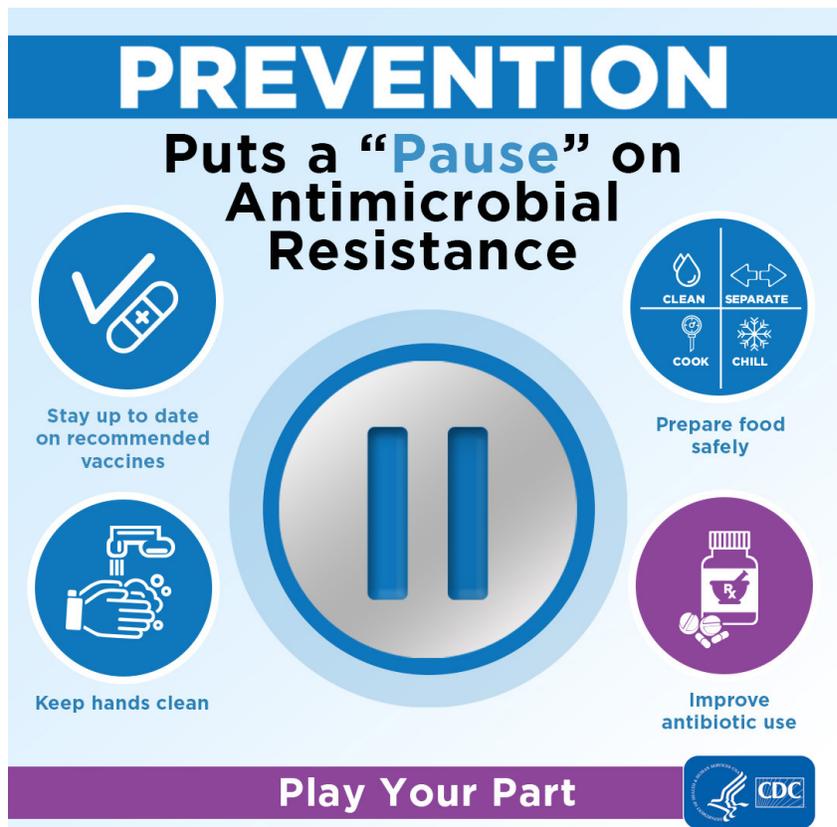
CDC Partner Toolkit

Prevention Puts a “Pause” on Antimicrobial Resistance

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

Antibiotics and antifungals are one of our most powerful tools for fighting life-threatening infections. Their discovery has transformed human and animal health. Unfortunately, we now live in an era when people are dying from antimicrobial-resistant infections.

Antimicrobial resistance (AR) occurs when germs like bacteria and fungi develop the ability to defeat the drugs designed to kill them. Resistant infections can lead to higher medical costs, extended hospital stays, and preventable deaths. In the U.S. alone, more than 2.8 million antimicrobial-resistant infections occur yearly, with more than 35,000 deaths resulting from these infections. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in more resistant infections, increased antibiotic use, less data and fewer prevention actions.



Every year CDC honors **U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week** (USAAW) to raise awareness and share information on the importance of improving antibiotic and antifungal use. These drugs save lives, but any time they are used, they can cause side effects and can contribute to the development of resistance. Everyone has a role in combating AR, and we look forward to collaborating with you in these efforts! This toolkit provides resources you can use, including key messages, social media content, and other informational materials.

**Thank you for joining in the fight against AR.
Use your voice to help share these important messages.**

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN USAAW

Go Light Blue for AR

CDC, along with partners worldwide, is asking participants—individuals, organizations, and communities—to show their support for improving the use of antibiotics and antifungals by using light blue as a visual cue to think about the importance of these life-saving drugs. Light blue signifies reliability. It also represents the diverse people, industries, organizations, and communities affected by AR and whose actions have the power to address AR.

Reach out through your network and encourage all to participate!

A few ways you can show your support:

- Wear light blue
- Light up buildings and landmarks in light blue for the week
- Bring light blue to your online presence
- Share pictures on your social media, tagging [#AntimicrobialResistance](#) or [#USA AW22](#)

Join the Conversation on Social Media

- Help spread the word with family, friends, and colleagues so they can also get involved. Follow [@CDC_AR](#), retweet us throughout the week, and jump into Twitter chats using [#AntimicrobialResistance](#) and [#USA AW22](#).
- Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists/American Nurses Association/CDC Live Twitter Chat, Tuesday, November 15, 7 p.m. EST
 - Topic: Multidisciplinary Approach to Combating Antimicrobial Resistance
 - Join the conversation [@SIDPharm](#), [@ANAnursingworld](#), [@CDC_AR](#), and [@CDC_Firstline](#) by using [#AntimicrobialResistance](#) and [#USA AW22](#).
- 24-hour Global Twitter Conversation/Relay, Friday, November 18
 - Topics will cover antimicrobial resistance and One Health
 - Use [#AntimicrobialResistance](#) and [#WAAW](#)

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

KEY MESSAGES

- **Antimicrobial resistance (AR) is a global public health threat.** It has the potential to affect people at any stage of life. It also affects our healthcare, veterinary, and agriculture industries, making it one of the world's most urgent public health problems.
- Individuals, organizations, and communities are invited to **participate in U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week November 18-24, 2022**, helping to raise awareness of the importance of improving antibiotic and antifungal use and slowing the spread of AR.
- **Antibiotics and antifungals are valuable tools** for treating infections, but any use—for people, animals, or plants—can contribute to resistance.
- **Everyone has a role in combating AR.** Working together, we must improve the use of antibiotics and antifungals and invest in prevention actions worldwide across healthcare facilities and communities.
- Antimicrobial resistance will continually develop, even against new drugs. **We can take simple actions to slow its development and spread while preserving the powerful antibiotics and antifungals available today.**

Prevention Puts a Pause on Antimicrobial Resistance; Play Your Part

You can help combat AR every day. Using infection prevention best practices makes a difference. Take steps to protect yourself and your family by reducing your risk of infection:

- Keep your hands clean by washing or using hand sanitizer to help stop germs from spreading.
- Stay up to date on recommended vaccines to help prevent infections, slow resistance, and reduce antibiotic and antifungal use.
- Ask your healthcare provider or veterinarian about the best treatment when you, your family, or an animal is sick. Antibiotics and antifungals aren't always the answer.
- Prepare food safely to avoid foodborne infections. Clean your hands, utensils, and surfaces. Separate raw meat from other foods. Cook foods to safe temperatures. Chill foods promptly.

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

- Join U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week Nov. 18-24 to raise awareness and share information on the importance of improving antibiotic and antifungal use. Everyone has a role in fighting AR! #USAAW22
- #Antibiotics and antifungals are powerful tools to fight infections, but they can also cause side effects and contribute to #AntimicrobialResistance. This #USAAW22, learn more about when abx are and aren't needed. <https://bit.ly/3TwyIRe> #BeAntibioticsAware
- It's U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week! Antibiotics do not work for viruses like flu, COVID-19, or RSV, but other medications, like antivirals, can treat viruses. If you're sick, ask your healthcare professional about the best way to treat your illness. <https://bit.ly/3DfaQvR>
- Prevention puts a "pause" on #AntimicrobialResistance, play your part! No one can completely avoid getting an infection, but you can reduce your risk by taking the necessary precautions, including improving how we use antibiotics and antifungals. #USAAW22

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT ANTIBIOTIC AND ANTIFUNGAL USE

FACT:

Antibiotics **DO NOT** work on viruses, including those that cause colds, flu, RSV, or COVID-19.

FACT:

Antibiotics are used to kill bacteria and antifungals are used to kill fungi. Antimicrobial resistance means the germ causing an infection has become resistant to the antibiotic or antifungal treatment.

FACT:

Taking an antibiotic when you don't need one won't help you feel better, and the side effects of the drugs may hurt you. Work with your healthcare provider or veterinarian to make sure an antibiotic or antifungal is the right treatment.

FACT:

Antibiotics save lives but can also cause harm. When prescribed, take antibiotics exactly as directed. Don't share your antibiotics with others or save them for later. Don't take antibiotics prescribed for someone else. The right drug at the right time helps combat antimicrobial resistance.

FACT:

Everyone plays a part in combating antimicrobial resistance. Germs will continue to change and adapt but prevention actions can help slow their development and spread. Wash your hands, stay up to date on recommended vaccines, prepare food safely, prevent sexually transmitted diseases, and only use antibiotics and antifungals as prescribed by your healthcare provider.

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

STAY INFORMED

USAAW is one time a year, but we can work together all year to fight AR, take steps to prevent infections, and improve antibiotic and antifungal use.

Follow CDC on Social Media:

Twitter:

[@CDC_AR](https://twitter.com/CDC_AR)

Facebook:

[CDC](https://www.facebook.com/CDC)

LinkedIn:

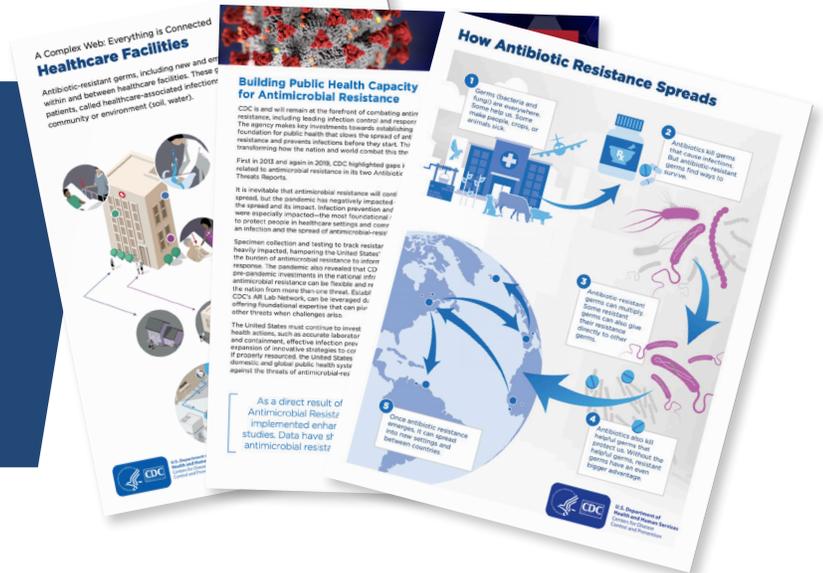
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.linkedin.com/company/centers-for-disease-control-and-prevention)

Instagram:

[@CDCgov](https://www.instagram.com/CDCgov)

Sign Up for CDC's Newsletter:

[Sign-up for our newsletter](#) to receive the latest information from the CDC about antimicrobial resistance.



Visit CDC's Websites:

- [CDC's USAAW Partner Toolkit](#)
- [CDC's Be Antibiotics Aware partner toolkit](#)
- [Antimicrobial Resistance](#)
- [COVID-19 and Antimicrobial Resistance](#)
- [2019 AR Threats Report](#)
- [CDC Investments & Action](#)
- [Antibiotic Prescribing and Use](#)
- Find [more CDC websites](#)

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week



Thank you for your participation

PREVENTION

Puts a "Pause" on Antimicrobial Resistance



Stay up to date
on recommended
vaccines



Prepare food
safely



Keep hands clean



Improve
antibiotic use

Play Your Part

